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Faculty Senate Resolution 11-21

Excluding Existing Gift Accounts Including LSU Foundation Accounts, Expired Fixed Price Accounts, Rebate Accounts, and Tech Transfer Accounts from Being Charged Tuition Remission Recovery and Fringe Benefits for Graduate Assistant Tuition.

Proposed by Senator John Andrew Nyman

Whereas a tuition exemption has been provided by LSU to all full-time graduate assistants since fall of 2005 and a health insurance program, since the fall of 2007,

Whereas the majority of funding for the graduate assistant tuition remission has come from the Facilities and Administrative cost recover (F&A) administered by the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED),

Whereas the over 25% of the currently available F&A is used to pay tuition exemption and health insurance for Graduate Assistants and costs are expected to increase as tuition increases,

Whereas the University has decided to implement a new policy such that beginning with proposals submitted after 1 January, 2012, a tuition remission rate of 31% and a fringe benefit rate of 3% will be included in grant application budgets for all graduate students to be funded by the grant,

Whereas the University has decided to implement a new policy such that effective 1 July 2012, tuition remission recover and fringe benefits rates for graduate assistant will also apply to existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts,

Whereas existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts lack any avenue for securing additional funds from the sponsor,

Whereas a 34% increase in costs for existing graduate assistants likely will have the effect of eliminating funding for a third of all existing graduate assistants,

Whereas graduate assistants are unlikely to complete their degrees without funding,

Whereas an increase in the number of graduate students failing to complete their degree programs will adversely affect metrics used to rank universities,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate supports the new policy such that beginning with proposals submitted after 1 January, 2012, a tuition remission rate of 31% and a fringe benefit rate of 3% will be included in grant application budgets for all graduate students to be funded by the grant,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate opposes the new policy such that effective 1 July 2012, tuition remission recover and fringe benefits rates for graduate assistants will also apply to existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that University cease adding funds existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts, but continue to use those funds to support graduate assistants whose tuition remission and insurance are provided by F&A.